(b) what has been the response of the Finance Ministry on his demand and what are the details of points he has submitted in support of his demand: and

(c) the details of new schemes his Ministry floated during the current financial year and the status of the schemes as on-date?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K.YERRANNAIDU): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Finance Ministry has not agreed to this demand. as the Government decision on achieving 5 per cent saving in the Budgetary Allocation is uniformly applicable to all the Ministries. The matter has not been further pursued with the Ministry of Finance.

(c) No new scheme of this Ministry has been floated during the current financial year.

Employment to rural/tribal people in Madhya Pradesh

888. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state what are the details of targets and achievements set out by Government with regard to providing employment to rural and tribal people of Madhya Pradesh during preceding 5 years and for the Ninth Plan period separately?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU): Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) and Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) are the major employment programmes being implemented by the Centre throughout the country including the State of Madhya Pradesh for the benefit of rural poor including the tribals. The details of Physical targets and achievements set out by this Ministry for these programmes with regard to providing employment to rural and tribal people of Madhya Pradesh for preceding 5 years and first year of Ninth Plan are given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix 182, Annexure No. 21].

Implementation of 73rd Constitution Amendment Act in the States

889.SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the states where the 73rd Constitution Amendment Act has been fully implemented;

(b) the States where the State Finance Commission constituted under this Act have not been constituted so far: and

(c) what measures have been taken up by the Central Government to implement said amendment Act in the States?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU): (a) Necessary State Legislation on Panchayats have been passed by all States where the 73rd Constitution Amendment Act is applicable. Elections to the Panchayats have been held in all States to which Part IX of the Constitution applies except Bihar, Lakshadweep and Pondicherry. Panchayats have also to be constituted at the Zilla Parishad level in Goa. Devolution of powers and functions is a continuous process. The State Governments have devolved some powers, functions and responsibilities upon the PRIs. Some States like Kerala can be said to have almost fully implemented the 73rd Amendment Act.

(b) State Finance Commissions have been constituted in all the States where the 73rd Constitution Amendment is applicable, except in Arunachal Pradesh. The Arunachal pradesh Panchayati Raj Bill, 1997 is yet to receive the assent of the President.

(c) The progress of implementation of the Amendment Act by the States is closely monitored by the Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment regularly. A Conference of the Chief Ministers was held on 2nd August, 1997 to review the progress of devolution of powers to PRIs by the States. As recommended by the Conference, a Committee of Chief Ministers under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister was constituted to look into the impediments in the devolution process. This Committee of Chief Ministers met on 1st October, 1997. The report of this Committee suggesting several

measures towards devolution has been circulated to all the States/UTs for speedy implementation.

Environmental Clearance for Mumbai-Pune Expressway

890. PROF. RAM KAPSE:
SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have given the environmental clearance for the proposed Mumbai-Pune expressway; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the Union Government have shown their willingness to clear the project during the discussion between the State Government and the Prime Minister on the subject?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Environment & Forest has cleared part length of the proposed Mumbai-Pune Expressway from Environmental angle.

Road Accidents in Delhi

891. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether as reported in the Hindustan Times of 11th September, 1997, Delhi, with an average six road deaths every day, records the highest number of accidents in the country per year and one of highest in the world;

(b) if so, the number of road accidents in Delhi in 1995, 1996 and 1997 so far and the toll of human life claimed thereby; and

(c) the rasons for such a situation and the steps taken and planned to be taken up to curb the menace?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Report of National Highways in West Bengal

892. SHRI JIBON ROY:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total National Highways in Km. in West Bengal;

(b) whether more than fifty per cent of the same is in bad condition and require immediate repair/rehabilitation' if so, the strench of National Highways, requiring repair in the State; and

(c) the action taken by Government in the form of plan and non-plan funds allocated in 1997-98 for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) The total length of National Highways in West Bengal is 1676 Kms.

(b) Reports of poor condition of Sections of National Highways i.e. NH 6, 2, 34 and 31 in West Bengal have been received. Repair and rehabilitation works, to keep the National Highways in traffic worthy condition within available resources, are in progress.

(c) Rs. 52 crores and Rs. 19.61 crores have been allocated as plan and non-plan funds for this purpose.

Funds for Strengthening of National Highways

893. SHRI JIBON ROY:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the demands for funds made by the States from his Ministry for strengthening, widening surface, improvement, new alignment and new bridges on National Highways during the last three years;

(b) the funds allotted during the above period;

(c) the funds demanded for non-plan works on National Highways by States during last three years; and